(viii) Foodgrains at the rate applicable for BPL families are now available for allotment to the State Government for undertaking Food for Work Programme in the State as also for the "Greening India Campaign".

(ix) Foodgrains are allotted at BPL rates for development schemes (where the beneficiaries belong to the BPL category) implemented by NGOs sponsored by the State Government and endorsed by the Administrative Ministry in the Government of India, as also by International Organisations like the World Food Programme.

(x) 15.48 lakh tonnes of foodgrains (6.65 lakh tonnes rice and 8.83 lakh tonnes wheat) was allotted free of cost to Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan for undertaking Food for Work Programmes in the drought affected areas.

Amendment in Sugar Development Fund

485. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before his Ministry to make amendments in the Sugar Development Fund;

(b) if so, the proposed amendments to be carried out by his Ministry; and

(c) the reasons for such amendments and how it would help the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has under consideration proposals to make amendments to the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 (SDF Act) and the Sugar Development Fund Rules, 1983 (SDF Rules) framed under this Act. The proposals include provisions for making loans for facilitating bagasse based cogeneration power, production of anhydrous alcohol/ethanol from alcohol and defraying expenditure on internal transport and freight charges on export shipments of sugar. The SDF Rules are proposed to be amended to provide, *inter-alia*, for loans on concessional terms for the rehabilitation of potentially viable sick sugar mills and to provide for buffer subsidy being used first to clear cane price payments (including arrears) to sugarcane growers.

(c) The amendment proposals under consideration are intended to improve the viability of the Indian Sugar Industry, to enable the sugar mills to make timely payment of cane price dues to promote exports, to augment power generation and to promote use of ethanol for purpose of blending with motor spirit.

Expenditure on preservation of agricultural commodities by FCI

486. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) how much amount has been spent on preservation of agricultural commodities during the last three years of 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 by the Food Corporation of India;

(b) how much stocks of foodgrains has to be stored in open because of lack of constructed godowns;

(c) how much quantity of agricultural produce, including foodgrains were declared unfit for human consumption during the above period; and

(d) the monetary loss that his Ministry had to suffer as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The total amount spent by FCI on pesticides/chemicals only for preservation of foodgrains during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is as under:—

Year	Amount spent (Rupees in Crores) Towards the cost of chemicals/pesticides
1998-1999	12.00
1999-2000	14.86
2000-2001	18.00

(b) The quantities of foodgrains (wheat/paddy) which were stored in open during the last three years is as follows:—